

Tuesday, April 4, 2023 · 7:30 pm
 Peggy and Yale Gordon Center For Performing Arts

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We learn, live, move and play on the unceded lands of the Piscataway and Susquehannock nations. We acknowledge the settler-colonial history and systemic inequities that continue to shape the present and future of indigenous people who reside in Baltimore City, including Piscataway, Lumbee, and Eastern Band of Cherokee community members. As artists, teachers, and students, we are responsible for engaging in a multifaceted dialogue about our complacency as participants in and beneficiaries of settler-colonial ways of knowing and being. This public acknowledgment extends the ongoing conversation in our practice, history, and theory courses.

Baby, Bebop, and The Blues

Brinae Ali, choreographer

Music by Charlie Parker, *Billie's Bounce* (Baby Laurence sample live in Germany)
arranged and looped by Brinae Ali

Peabody Tap Ensemble | Stephanie Marco and A.J. Winegar, dancers

Breaking/Becoming PREMIERE

Christian Denice (artist in residence), choreographer

Kelly Hirina, rehearsal director

Music by Ben Waters, *Breaking/Becoming*

Eon Allum, Kayla DeLise, Kayla Laufer, Ceci Sun, and Emma Welter, dancers

Silk Concerto

Kristen Stevenson, choreographer

Music by Antonio Vivaldi, *The Four Seasons*, Concerto no. 2 in G Minor, RV 315 "Summer": III Presto

Evelyn Au, dancer

FOUR CORNERS (excerpts) (2014)

Ronald K. Brown (guest artist), choreographer

Arcell Cabuag (guest artist), assistant choreographer

Diedre Dawkins, rehearsal director

Music by Carl Hancock Rux, Rahsaan Roland Kirk, Yacoub, *Lamentations*
Mixed by RKB

Keiko Voltaire, costume designer

Jade Abner-Gilmore, MaKenna Charles, Ui-Seng François, Iva Lin, Leah Logsdon, and Reilly Sheriff, dancers

Brown's Four Corners was originally commissioned for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 2014. Dancers depict spiritual seekers amid four angels standing on the corners of the earth, holding the four winds. In creating his fifth commission for the Ailey company since 1999, the celebrated choreographer turned to the song Lamentations by his friend, recording artist Carl Hancock Rux. Drawing from West African and modern dance influences, Brown uses grounded, earthy movements to portray figures who are burdened by grief but ultimately find peace, solace, and freedom with the aid of "the angels in their corners" mentioned in Rux's text:

"...Beloved, you say your God, woman you're earth, lamentations born, you son...Four Corners with blades and sheaths...Stand Up..."

Four Corners was commissioned by the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 2014.

re-membering PREMIERE

danah bella,* choreographer in collaboration with the dancers

Music by Salvador Barajas

Peabody Dance Ensemble, Sophia Perone, and Emma Welter, dancers

Horton Meditations

Diedre Dawkins,* choreographer

Music by Ralph McDonald, *The Path*

Jade Abner-Gilmore, Evelyn Au, MaKenna Charles, Iva Lin, Jillbeth Rivera, and Ceci Sun, dancers

dissent

Sorah Yang (guest artist), choreographer

Music by Gomd, *sick*

Peabody Dance Ensemble | Alexandra Carioti, Ui-Seng François, Setia Kurniawanto, Kayla Laufer, Zoë Brielle Payne, Sophia Perone, Noah Price (Understudy), Lourdes del Mar Santiago Lebron, and Emma Welter, dancers

INTERMISSION

How we start, Where we go, When we finish PREMIERE

Madison Hicks (guest artist), choreographer

Music by Dustin O'Halloran and Hauschka, *Orphans*

Lourdes del Mar Santiago Lebron, Sophia Perone, Kayla Laufer, Ceci Sun, Emma Welter, and Stephanie Marco, dancers

Must Be Love PREMIERE

Jess Beach (guest artist), choreographer

Music by Etta James, *Somethings Got a Hold on Me*

Beyonce, *I'd Rather Go Blind*

Eon Allum, Alexandra Carioti, Armani Colón, Ui-Seng François, Jade Abner-Gilmore, Noelia Montiel, Stephanie Marco, Ceci Sun, Jamie Sisk, Marie-Amelle Thenoz, Micah Shapiro, A.J. Winegar, and Anna Cremers, dancers

hommage PREMIERE

Kelly Hirina,* choreographer in collaboration with the dancers

Music by David Christopher Green, *Kettle Pulse, Sticky Sine & The Beat*

Jack White, *Seven Nation Army*

Evelyn Au, MaKenna Brielle Charles, Kayla DeLise, Iva Lin, Leah Logsdon, Lily Perry, Jackson Rynd, and Reilly Sheriff, dancers

With special thanks to Andrew Van Allen.

Intervallo PREMIERE

Christopher Pennix,* choreographer

Music by Richard Faith, Charles West, and Susan Grace, *Sea Pieces: No. 2 Capriccio*

Marie-Amelle Thenoz, Setia Kurniawanto, Zoë Brielle Payne, Evelyn Au, Sophia Perone, Lourdes del Mar Santiago Lebron, Kayla Laufer, Jillbeth Rivera, and Yu-Fei Liu, dancers

Garden of Earthly Delights

Chris Andrews (guest artist), choreographer

danah bella, rehearsal assistant

Music by Debarge, *I Like It*

Jade Abner-Gilmore, Eon Allum, MaKenna Charles, Armani Colón, Setia Kurniawanto, and Jillbeth Rivera, dancers

Breaking/Becoming PREMIERE

Christian Denice (artist in residence), choreographer

Music by Ben Waters, *Breaking/Becoming*

Kelly Hirina, rehearsal director

Kayla Laufer, Leah Logsdon, Noah Price, Jackson Rynd, Reilly Sheriff, and Emma Welter, dancers

Boa Ano - to gather (TWI language)

Diedre Dawkins, choreographer

Music arranged by Jabari Exum, Kassa Rhythm

performed by Jabari Exum, Chris Pierorazio, and Julián Quall

Peabody BFA Dance Ensemble, dancers

BIOGRAPHIES

danah bella, BFA Dance chair

danah bella is an acclaimed choreographer who has performed, presented work, and been artist in residence at festivals and universities throughout the United States and abroad. She is the artistic director of danah bella DanceWorks, a modern dance company focused on reclaiming evocative movement as social practice, and a founding member of Colectivo Caliban, an artist collective that transgresses disciplinary borders through sound and movement. bella is currently the Director of the BFA Dance program at the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University and the Artistic Director of the award-winning Peabody Dance Ensemble. She was named one of the *Baltimore Sun's* 25 Women to Watch in 2018 and recently received the Maryland Dance Education Association's 2021 Higher Education Dance Educator of the Year Award.

bella was awarded an MFA in performance from the Ohio State University and a BA in Dance and Asian American Studies from the University of California in Santa Barbara

Chris Andrews, choreographer

Starting at age 15, Chris Andrews began dancing in his high school's dance company and attended a studio for more training, during his senior year. After graduating high school, he became a battle dancer with Deadly Venom Crew (DVC) and Kombine Stylez Crew (KSC) and also started to teach at studios along the east coast. He joined a contemporary company named Alternative Dance Project (ADP) in Baltimore, Maryland. Also went off to Los Angeles to be involved in immersive theater shows with Zoe Joe's Theater, Performative Pop-Up, and Mutate (L.A.). He went on to work with music artist like Lonr, Taylor Swift, Paula Abdul, Imagine Dragons, Jonas Brothers, Aluna, Foster the People, Khalid, FKA Twigs, and Ruff Endz, being Top 30 on two seasons of 'So You Think You Can Dance'. Has appeared on the film *In the Heights*. Chris also is appearing Disney's, *Hip-Hop Nutcracker* and The 30th Anniversary of *Beauty and the Beast* [LIVE].

Jess Beach, choreographer

Jess Beach is a native of Pennsylvania and believes in always being a student. She has been training for over 29 years in Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary, HipHop, Tap, and Musical Theatre in New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and up and down the east and west coast under noted dancers and choreographers such as Nicolas Petrov (founder of Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre) and Ilya Gaft (Saint Petersburg Ballet Theatre). Beach began her formal academic pursuit of dance at La Roche College's Conservatory for Ballet and then expanded her studies to contemporary techniques, graduating Magna Cum Laude with a BA in Dance (Jazz Concentration) from Point Park University in Pittsburgh, PA.

While in Pittsburgh, Beach performed industrials for the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera House, Pittsburgh Pirates, and danced backup for Neil Young and Crazy Horse under the direction of Russ Tamblyn (of the original film *West Sides Story*). Upon graduation, Beach toured professionally as a dancer and performer for Holland America Cruise Lines through Stiletto Entertainment based out of California. Beach spent 6 years working steadily for Stiletto Entertainment performing all over the world from Russia to South America and everywhere in between, working with noted choreographers such as Broadway's Patti Colombo and director, producer, associate choreographer John Charron, and Carla Kama (known for her pioneering choreography all over the media scene including Prince and Carmen Electra).

Beach feels blessed continuing her dance career by spending the past 13 years educating, mentoring, and choreographing. Beach has had the honor of working with the distinguished Alvin Ailey Dance Company with their Inaugural installation of Ailey Camp Baltimore at Towson University as master Jazz instructor. She also had the privilege of working with Big Picture Media as Choreographer and featured dancer for a Regional Television commercial. One of her favorite projects was working with the husband-and-wife duo of On the DL, Danielle Sten and Lance Guillermo, as rehearsal director for On the DL's production of *Working America* as well as assistant choreographer for the ADP dance company production of *366*. Beach enjoyed 4 years as director/choreographer of three youth competition and performance Hip Hop Companies in Maryland and 4 years as Artist in Residence and Instructor for the Dance Departments at Howard Community College and Barbara Ingram School for the Arts.

Most recently, Beach is adjunct faculty for the BFA Dance program with the Peabody Conservatory in addition to instructing dance full time in a private studio in Maryland. Beach spends her weekends guest teaching and traveling for national and international dance conventions and competitions adjudicating dancers from all over the country. A sought-after master instructor, adjudicator, and the recipient of many accolades for her choreography; Beach is humbled to continue to follow her passion and share her enthusiasm for dance with her students.

Brinae Ali, choreographer

Alexandria “Brinae Ali” Bradley, born and raised in Flint, Michigan is an interdisciplinary artist who believes in using the power of the arts to transform the conditions of the human spirit. When she is not traveling and performing, she is giving back to young people and grass roots organizing. Currently Bradley is the artistic director of Tapology, Inc. a youth based outreach program in Flint, that believes in preserving the art of tap and jazz culture through education and performance. As an educator she has collaborated with After School Activities Partnership, East Park Revitalization Alliance, Philadelphia Clef Club of Performing Arts, Raise It Up! Youth Arts and Awareness, Flint Youth Theatre, Mural Arts of Philadelphia, Young Audiences of New Jersey, Queens College, Long Island University, Ping Chong and Company, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, and was an artist in residence at the Carol Morgan School in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and Apollo Theater Education with Wadleigh High School in Harlem NYC. She has also served as an adjunct professor at Queens College and Long Island University. Internationally Bradley has traveled and performed around the world in countries such as, France, Germany, China, and Brazil. She also travelled with a team of tap dancers to Russia for a tour in 5 cities working with the U.S. Embassy for its cultural exchange program celebrating National Tap Dance Day. Her Broadway and off-Broadway experience has gained her positions as assistant dance captain for *Shuffle Along: the 1921 Sensation And All That Followed* choreographed by Savion Glover and directed by George C. Wolfe, company member of NY and Touring cast of STOMP, special feature in the *Cotton Club Parade* which later became *After Midnight* under the musical direction of Wynton Marsalis, New York City Center Off-Center production of *Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope* directed and choreographed by Savion Glover and was a part of a two week tour in Italy celebrating Ella Fitzgerald's centennial. As a playwright and songwriter she has also created award winning works such as Best Short Play at the Downtown Urban Theater Festival for her one woman show *Steps* and the Vox Populi Independence Music Award for *Destination Forever: Vol. 1 EP*. Currently she is developing a work in progress with trumpeter Sean Jones called *Dizzy Spellz* fusing tap, Bebop, Hip Hop, and Afro Cuban music to articulate the African American experience through the music of Dizzy Gillespie from an Afrofuturistic lense.

Diedre Dawkins, choreographer

Diedre Dawkins is a 2003 Bessie Award winner and founder of “Dance is Healing” mentoring for middle school girls through dance. Dawkins graduated from the New York City High School of the Performing Arts and received her BFA in dance from New York University Tisch School of the Arts and her MFA in choreography and performance from The University of Maryland College Park. She is currently pursuing her K-12 Teacher Certification at Towson University. She was a member of Ronald K. Brown /Evidence Dance Company for eight years where she had the privilege of teaching and performing throughout the United States, Senegal West Africa, Switzerland, Greece, France, London, and Cuba. She is a member of the Screen Actors Guild and has worked with artists such as Bill T. Jones (FELA), Bebe Miller, Kevin Iga Jeff (Deeply Rooted Dance Theater), Jawole Zollar (Urban Bush Women) and Amaniyea Payne (Muntu Dance Theater).

For the past six years, Dawkins has been an adjunct professor in dance at Coppin State University and is currently the arts director at ConneXions: A Community Based Arts School, where she has been named ConneXions 2016-17 Teacher of the Year. She is the founder and director of ConneXions Repertory Company, which is comprised of ConneXions students and alumni. This fall, the repertory company humbly accepted an invitation to perform at the opening ceremony of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. Her accomplishments as a program facilitator/dance director includes statewide dance performance exposure and exceptional audition preparation for students resulting in entry to elite arts institutions throughout the United States.

Dawkins is the modern dance instructor at Alvin Ailey Camp in Towson. She has been an adjunct professor in dance at Towson University and a visiting artist at Howard University. She's a teaching artist with Young Audiences of Maryland and has worked as a consultant, artistic director, and dance program facilitator for various arts institutions throughout the United States. Dawkins has created a highly successful “Literacy through the Arts Curriculum” for grades pre-k through 8 and was the co-chair of the committee working to revise the dance curriculum for Baltimore City schools. She is the director of Dance is Healing Performing Arts Preparatory where she provides summer dance instruction with a concentration in health and political awareness and is also the founder of the DPAP six-week summer intensive which culminates in a week of dance immersion in New York City. Dawkins has a deep love for children and the art of teaching and as a result youth and the betterment of her community is her life work.

Christian Denice, choreographer

Christian Denice grew up dancing in Westlake Village, California. Upon graduating high school, he began his professional dance career at Odyssey Dance Theatre in Salt Lake City, Utah, under the direction of Derryl Yeager. Christian spent the next three years at River North Dance Chicago in Chicago, Illinois, under the direction of Frank Chaves. Christian was named one of the top ten male dancers of 2010 by Time Out Chicago and received recognition as a notable Chicago dancer of 2010 by the Chicago Tribune. He has worked with and performed works by Robert Battle, Sidra Bell, Lauri Stallings, Roni Koresh, Frank Chaves, and Sherry Zunker to name a few. He has

guest performed with the Montgomery Ballet, Greensboro Ballet, and Company E, and BODYTRAFFIC. Recently, Christian lived in Montreal, Quebec, where he danced for Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal and had the privilege of internationally performing works by Andonis Foniadakis, Cayetano Soto, Wen Wei Wang, and Barak Marshall.

Madison Hicks, choreographer

Madison Hicks holds a BFA in Dance from The Juilliard School and an MFA in Choreography from California Institute of the Arts. Hicks is a freelance creator, performer, and educator. In 2022, she received the Orsolina28 "Call for Creation" residency for her project, *Corrupt(ed)*. Hicks was one of eight choreographers chosen for The Jacobs Pillow Ann and Weston Hicks Choreographic Fellowship in 2021. In 2022 and 2023, Madison was commissioned by The Fordham Ailey BFA program, Peabody University, Vitacca Ballet, and Wayne State University, along with being chosen as a choreographer for DanceLabNY and a choreographer in residence at Chez Bushwick. She was a guest choreographer at The Juilliard School's Summer Intensive and will be a choreographer for UNCSCA Professional Studies and MoveNYC in 2023. She is the choreographer for *The Elixir of Love* Opera at Curtis Institute of Music. Hicks is a company artist with Sidra Bell Dance New York. She is the director and founder of Moving Forward, an innovative non-profit organization for young artists and founded The Moving Forward Collective in 2022, a group of collaborators that present original work across the country. She has been commissioned by companies such as Ballet Arkansas, Avant Chamber Ballet, Mash-Up Contemporary Dance company, Ballet Project OC, and Water Street Dance Milwaukee. She has presented work at Arts on Site, Boston Dance Festival, LA Dance Festival, Palm Desert Choreography Festival, and others. She premiered her solo work *Sparkle with a K* at The Navel Theater in Downtown Los Angeles in 2020. She has been a guest choreographer for Orange County School of the Performing Arts, Lindenwood University, Booker T. Washington HSPVA Rep II Ensemble, The University of Texas at Austin, Center of Creative Arts, Houston MET Too, San Diego Civic Center, and The Windward School along with rigorously teaching artists of all ages. Madison is a faculty member at Steps on Broadway and Peridance Center. She joined the 24Seven Break The Floor faculty in 2022.

She was full-time company member with LA Dance Project under the direction of Benjamin Millepied for the 2018-19 season. Since then, Hicks has been a lead dancer in both Noosa Yoghurt and Lexus Commercials along with choreographing music videos for Eleanor Kingston and the Handsome Ghost. She was a 2013 YoungArts winner for modern dance, 2014 US Presidential Scholar in the Arts Nominee and a guest artist in the 2014 YoungArts Presidential Scholar Gala under the direction of Bill T. Jones. In January of 2017, she performed as a distinguished guest alumnus in the YoungArts annual Backyard Ball under the direction of Tony Yazbeck. She received a choreography award from YAGP in 2014 and had three choreographic works chosen to perform in The Choreographic Honors show at The Juilliard School. Hicks was awarded the Gene Kelly Legacy Scholarship for her choreography and jazz technique in 2016. She has performed works by Nacho Duato, Jiri Kylian, Emily Molnar, Kyle Abraham, Ohad Naharin, Peter Chu, Merce Cunningham, Martha Graham, Aszure Barton, Gustavo Ramirez Sansano, Benjamin Millepied, and Pam Tanowitz.

Kelly Hirina, choreographer

Kelly Hirina, originally from Michigan, moved to the Netherlands as a Fulbright scholar and continued to live and work there as a professional dancer for twenty years. While there, Hirina worked with many different choreographers such as; Emilio Greco & Pieter C. Scholten (EG|PC), Krisztina de Chatel, Suzy Blok, Nicole Beutler, Liat Waysbort, and Dylan Newcomb in companies such as ICKamsterdam and Dansgroep Amsterdam. Hirina also worked in mime/theater onstage with Jakop Ahlbom and Compagnietheater (Theu Boermans) and in films with directors such as Arno Dierickx and Noud Heerkens. Alongside her dance career she studied acting at the Atlantic Theatre School in New York City.

Hirina is a certified teacher of both Countertechnique, created by Anouk van Dijk and Double Skin/Double Mind, created by Emilio Greco and Pieter C. Scholten. She has been teaching these methods at the Lucia Marthas Institute for Performing Arts (Amsterdam) and in her role as the artistic coordinator of ICKamsterdam's academy. These methods offer healthy approaches to the dancing body while stimulating their personal creativity. Hirina also incorporates methods from ICKamsterdam, the Sensorium Toolkit and Pre-choreographics, in choreographic development.

She acquired her M.F.A. in Dance from the University of Michigan with research based upon the link between mind and body in dance training, rehearsal and performance. Her specific interest is in pedagogical methods that enhance intrinsic motivation, appreciation for learning (a process-oriented approach) and goal setting.

Beyond dance, Hirina is also a fully certified Pilates and Vinyasa Yoga instructor. She enjoys creating an extremely physical experience for her students while also encouraging them to take the practice deeper beyond the physical, a training that is both concentrated and joyous. Hirina incorporates her interest in education and psychology while working with clients and students to achieve goals while working in a positively charged environment.

Christopher Pennix, choreographer

Christopher Pennix leads a dynamic career in dance, teaching, opera, and fitness as a certified yoga and cycle instructor. Under the direction of Jean Pierre Bonnefoux and Patricia McBride at Charlotte Ballet, formerly known as North Carolina Dance Theatre (NCDT), Pennix excelled in Neo-Classical and Contemporary repertoire through works by esteemed choreographers George Balanchine, Alvin Ailey, Alonzo King, Twyla Tharpe, and Dwight Rhoden.

At the Columbia City Ballet under William Starrett, he danced solo and principal roles in *Dracula*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Swan Lake*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *The Little Prince*. He has worked as a visiting guest artist with Greensboro Ballet, Fort Wayne Ballet, Kinetic Danceworks, Spartanburg Ballet, Owen Cox Dance Group, Norte Maar, and Moving Poets-Charlotte.

As a teaching artist for NCDT Reach, the ballet's nationally recognized need-based dance scholarship program, he provided urban students access to quality dance training in their neighborhoods free of charge while promoting self-esteem, discipline, a strong work ethic and an appreciation for the arts.

Pennix has danced principal roles at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts with the Washington National Opera in *Florencia en las Amazonas* and *La Cenerentola*. He has also performed with Opera Carolina and LA Opera. Currently, Pennix is serving as the Ballet Master at the Greater Annapolis Ballet alongside Founder and Artistic Director Margaret Russell. Many of their students have become finalists at the Youth America Grand Prix. His students have also danced professionally with Zeitgeist Dance Theatre, The Suzanne Farrell Ballet, and Ballet Inc.

Kristen S. Stevenson, choreographer

Kristen S. Stevenson is the managing director and founder of the Ballet Nouveau School in Baltimore. She originally fell in love with ballet at the age of 2 and continued her studies with The Washington Ballet, the Peabody Preparatory, The Julliard School, The Dance Theater of Harlem, The Donetsk Ballet, and The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Stevenson is an ABT® Certified Teacher, who has successfully completed the ABT® Teacher Intensive in Pre-Primary through Level 3 of the ABT® National Training Curriculum. Stevenson is also a Partner Teacher with the ABT® Project Plie Program. Stevenson is a National NAACP Gold Medalist as a classical ballet soloist. She holds both certification and membership with the Royal Academy of Dance and has performed on major stages such as The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and The Merriam Theater.

While studying at the University of the Arts for a Fine Arts degree in Dance Performance, she performed works choreographed by many internationally acclaimed artists. She has also been recognized for her contemporary choreography featured in the Youth America Grand Prix. Although Stevenson enjoyed performing, her true passion is teaching the next generation of dancers and she has successfully done so for the past 10 years.

Stevenson is ecstatic to continue educating and sharing her passion for fine arts by influencing others through dance.

Sorah Yang, choreographer

Sorah Yang is a choreographer, teacher, and entrepreneur who was born and raised in the Bay Area, and received her B.S. in Business Administration from USC. Her work has led to digital creative partnerships with brands like Hyundai and Adobe, as well as commercial work with Google and Nike. Other dance career highlights include being invited to 27 countries worldwide and over 30 colleges around the US to teach and perform, providing choreography and movement coaching for major K-pop artists & Broadway actors, performing with Billie Eilish at Coachella, miscellaneous industry work (TV shows, commercials, etc.), founding Vessel Dance Company, and delivering a TEDx Talk where she discussed her nonlinear path from a Marketing 9-to-5 to a career in the arts. She has been recognized by the World of Dance Awards as a two-time nominee for Female Choreographer of the Year, as well as being named one of *Dance Magazines* "25 to Watch in 2021."

